

Gambia-Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project

Year 5, Fiscal Year 2014, Work Plan
October 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014
(LWA Associate Award No. 624-A-00-09-00033-00)



A partnership of:

United States Agency for International Development / West Africa
Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography,
University of Rhode Island
World Wide Fund, West Africa Regional Office
Department of Fisheries Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources, The Gambia



Contact Information

Alagie Manjang
National Coordinator
World Wide Fund, The Gambia
Tel: 220-986-69-31
Email: alagie33@hotmail.com

Brian Crawford
Director, International Programs
Coastal Resources Center
University of Rhode Island
Tel: 1-401-874-6225
Fax: 1-401-874-6920
Email: brian@crc.uri.edu

Karen Kent
Project Leader
Coastal Resources Center
University of Rhode Island
Tel: 1-401-874-6630
Fax: 1-401-874-6920
Email: karen@crc.uri.edu

Kim Kaine
Global Program Coordinator
Coastal Resources Center
University of Rhode Island
Tel: 401-874-6823
Fax: 401-874-6920
Email: kkaine@crc.uri.edu

Georgette Yarboi-Quayson
Administrative Office Technical Representative
U.S. Agency for International Development / West Africa
Tel: 233-244-532913
Email: gyarboi-quayson@usaid.gov

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1. Introduction

The USAID/ BaNafaa project is a five-year regional initiative (ending in April 2014) supported by the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/West Africa Regional Mission. It is implemented through the University of Rhode Island (URI)-USAID cooperative agreement on Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (SUCCESS). The World Wide Fund West Africa Marine Program Office is a regional implementing partner. At the end of Year 2 (FY11), URI established an office presence in The Gambia and is working directly with local implementing partners, including TRY, NASCOM, and the Water Resources Laboratory. Project activities are carried out in partnership with the Department of Fisheries (DoFish) and stakeholders in the fisheries sector in The Gambia and in Senegal. The focus is on sustainable fisheries management including the shared marine and coastal resources between The Gambia and Senegal. However, most field activities are in The Gambia. The USAID/BaNafaa Project contributes directly to the achievement of the USAID West Africa Regional Office's Environment & Climate Change Response (ROECCR) Results Framework through contributions to multiple Intermediate Results.

In July 2011, WASH and Climate Change funding was awarded in addition to previous fisheries activities under the biodiversity earmark. With these funds, a Bilateral Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment was conducted in Year 3 and bi-lateral climate change adaptation priorities were identified by stakeholders. URI has been working directly with local partners TARUD and GAMWORKS to implement WASH activities beginning in Year 3 (FY12).

This Year 5 (FY14) Workplan is the final Workplan covering seven months through April 30, 2014. It describes the planned Year 5 project activities. The contents of this workplan were generated from discussions and outputs developed during meetings with project staff and through consultations with the Department of Fisheries and other key stakeholder groups via meetings and workshop events. The document provides a detailed description of Project activities to be implemented in Year 5 organized by Intermediate Result (IR). It includes a task implementation schedule as well as expected outputs and results by IR. For each task, the workplan also identifies the responsible Project staff and participating partners to guide teams involved in implementation. In addition, the Project management structure, the monitoring and evaluation strategy, and the corresponding performance and reporting framework are described. Summary budget information is also included. Appendix A provides a summary of the performance plan targets and the results to be achieved for each performance indicator.

1.1 Background

In West Africa, an estimated 1.5 million tons of fish are harvested annually from the region's waters, with a gross retail value of US\$1.5 billion. In The Gambia and Senegal artisanal fisheries make up a majority of the fisheries landings and contribute significantly to income

generation and local food security for coastal communities and for many communities inland where fish are traded. Some 200,000 people in the Gambia and 600,000 in Senegal are directly or indirectly employed in the fishing sector. Seafood products are a leading export of the region and generate as much as 20% of the gross value of exports. While the majority of seafood exports are destined for European Union (EU) markets, a growing volume of trade goes to the U.S. and other countries in the region.

Fish provides the main source of animal protein for the average rural family in the sub-region, where annual fish consumption can be as much as 25kg per capita. In many rural areas, fishing serves as a “social safety net” when farming turns unproductive due to depleted soil, drought, disease, or other factors.

There are two types of fisheries in The Gambia—artisanal and industrial. The total fish landed from both were estimated at nearly 40,000 MT in 2006. The artisanal fishery contributed approximately 93%.

In the mid-1960s The Gambia witnessed the transformation of the artisanal fishery from paddled canoes with simple fishing techniques to one with modern fish-capturing technologies and larger canoes with outboard engines, which resulted in an increase in fish landings. Decades of growth in the artisanal fishery combined with the activities of the industrial fishery has caused high levels of exploitation, especially of high-value fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. Production in the artisanal fishery has increased from 10,000MT in 1985 to approximately 40,000MT in 2006, while industrial production has been declining. Reports of dwindling catch per unit of effort indicate that high-valued demersal species are under threat from high levels of exploitation. Regular assessments carried out by the Demersal Working Group of the FAO’s Committee for Eastern Central Africa Fisheries (CECAF) also indicate that the major demersal fish stocks are either fully or overexploited. Pelagic stocks are also considered to be fully or overexploited regionally, but there are some indications that The Gambian stocks may not be fully exploited.

In addition to direct socioeconomic benefits derived from fishing, a well-managed sector can benefit other aspects of the region’s economy and quality-of-life. This includes a growing tourism sector and a number of globally and regionally significant natural heritage areas. With annual tourist arrivals surpassing 120,000 in The Gambia and 400,000 in Senegal, a growing number of tourists are taking advantage of the countries’ ecologically significant reserves, parks, and protected areas—most of which have direct links to the fate of well-managed fisheries. These include but are not limited to the Sine-Saloum Delta Biosphere Reserve in Senegal and in The Gambia the Niimi National Park, the Baobolon Wetland Reserve, and the Tanbi Wetland Complex—all are designated Ramsar sites and contain globally significant wetlands.

The Gambia’s fisheries sector operates under the authority and responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources, through the Department of Fisheries (DoFish). The policy, legal and management framework for fisheries in The Gambia is provided by the 2007 Fisheries Act

and the 2008 Fisheries Regulations. A draft Fisheries Management Plan for shrimp, sardinella and sole fish was prepared in 2009. The Fisheries Act mandates a Fishery Advisory Committee and Community Fisheries Centers as the institutional structure for inclusive oversight of the sector and also allows for decentralized fisheries co-management. The policy objectives of the fisheries sector as articulated in policy documents include:

- Rational and long-term utilization of the marine and inland fisheries resources
- Improving nutritional standards of the population
- Increasing employment opportunities in the sector
- Increasing foreign exchange earnings
- Increasing and expanding the participation of Gambians in the fisheries sector
- Improving the institutional capacity and legal framework for the management of the fisheries sector

The policy objectives of the fisheries sector are linked to key national development objectives that include: increased food self-sufficiency and security; a healthy population and enhanced employment opportunities for nationals; increased revenue generation and foreign exchange earnings; and the attainment of national social and economic development. They are designed to support key national development objectives as outlined in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020, which are blueprints for national development and eradication of poverty.

The Fisheries Act empowers the Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources and the Director of Fisheries to declare Special Management Areas for purposes of community-based fisheries management; establish open or closed seasons for specified areas and fish stocks; define minimum fish size regulations; and impose gear and fish method restrictions. See Appendix D for additional context and information on the legal basis for co-management in The Gambia and the rationale for piloting regional demonstration activities in The Gambia.

At stake in a successful ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management is the ability of millions of people to sustain a resource-dependent existence while at the same time protect the overall ecological integrity and biodiversity of the region. The USAID/BaNafaa Project has been addressing this challenge since 2009.

1.2 Program Goal and Intermediate Results

The goal of the USAID/BaNafaa Project is to support the Government of The Gambia in achieving its fisheries development objectives by contributing to the following vision:

Artisanal fisheries and coastal ecosystems in The Gambia and selected stocks shared with Senegal are being managed more sustainably, incorporating significant participation of fisherfolk in decision-making, and attaining improved economic benefits for both men and women involved in the market value chain.

USAID/BaNafaa builds on the on-going efforts of the Department of Fisheries in The Gambia, working with several community fisheries centers and their management committees to improve fisherfolk involvement in the management of fisheries resources. More specifically, to further the development and implementation of the draft fisheries management plan for sole and other selected species. Sole is an important export commodity so this involves partnerships with export processing businesses as well. This is also a shared stock with Senegal. As gender equity is another important aspect of the project, USAID/BaNafaa is benefiting both men and women in the fisheries sector by also working with oyster harvesters—a women-dominated fishery whose importance is often under-recognized.

Intermediate Results for the USAID/BaNafaa Project:

- IR 1: Strategies to increase social and economic benefits to artisanal fishing communities, and otherwise create incentives for a sustainable fisheries agenda in the WAMER identified, tested and applied.
- IR 2: Institutional capacity strengthened at all levels of governance to implement an ecosystem-based, co-management approach to sustainable fisheries, and to prevent overfishing.
- IR 3: Nursery areas and spawning areas for critical life stages of commercially important species and for associated marine turtles and mammals are protected.
- IR 4: Change unsustainable and destructive marine resource use practices that threaten improved biodiversity conservation in the West Africa Marine Ecoregion.

Project Strategies

- A participatory co-management approach that engages fisherfolk in decision-making.
- An ecosystem-based approach that looks not only at the fish, but protection of critical habitats and reduction of fishery impacts on threatened marine species.
- Mainstreaming gender dimensions that provide opportunities for both men and women to benefit economically and participate in decision-making.
- A threats-based approach to coastal and marine biodiversity conservation.

Geographic Scope. The Project concentrates its activities on the marine and coastal resources and fisheries stocks shared among the Casamance, the Gambia River and Saloum Delta region—an area of regional biodiversity significance (see Figure 1). The majority of on-the-ground

activities occur in The Gambia, where USAID/BaNafaa focuses on the artisanal nearshore fisheries along the Atlantic coastline as well as the estuarine- and mangrove-dominated portions of The Gambia River (see Figure 1). A sister project in Senegal, called the Wula Nafaa project, is working on fisheries management in the Saloum Delta and Casamance River. Together, these two USAID-supported initiatives are expected to have a significant impact on improved management of this biodiversity-rich area.

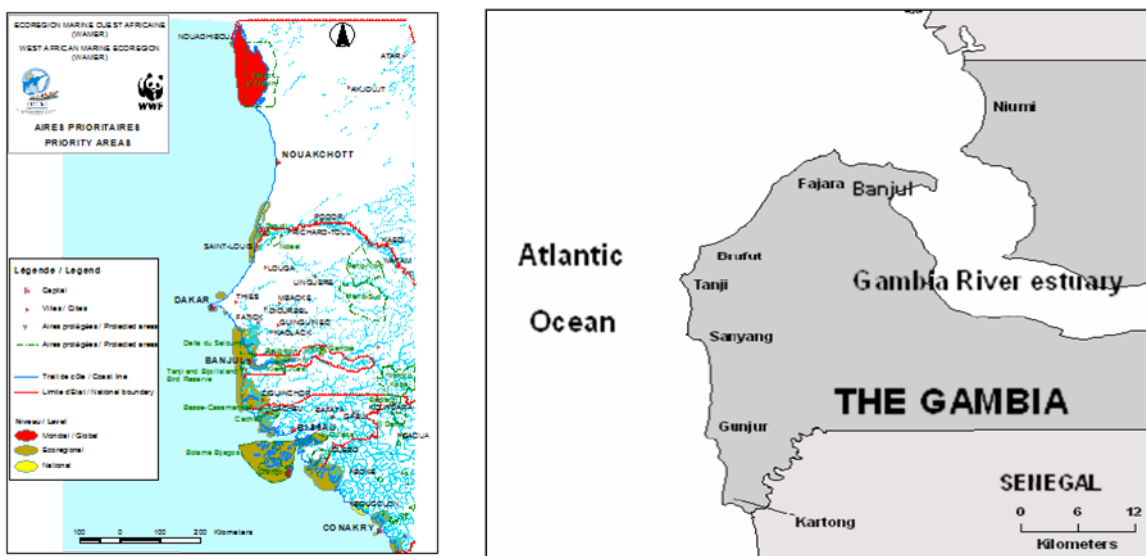


Figure 1: Figure 1. Areas of Biodiversity Significance in the WAMER and The Gambia River Estuary and Atlantic Coast

2. Summary of Accomplishments to Date

The Year 4 Annual Report documents recent project achievements in detail. Key project accomplishments since 2009 are highlighted below. For a summary of project results relative to performance indicators as of the end of Year 4 and targets for Year 5, see Appendix A.

1. An approved [Fishery Co-Management Plan for The Gambia Sole Complex](#) in January 2012, bringing 121,245 ha under improved management (the Atlantic Coast of The Gambia out to 9 nautical miles). The plan designates exclusive use rights to the sole fishery within this zone to the National Sole Fishery Co-Management Committee (NASCOM) and specifies a seasonal closure of one nautical mile from the coastline for all fishing from May 1 through October 31 for all fish species and gear types. This is in addition to a minimum fish size, a minimum mesh size and a ban on the use of drift nets for the mouth of The Gambia River.
2. A successful participatory, eco-system-based co-management planning process that resulted in the Co-Management Plan and included the following achievements among others:

- Action research and technical studies including, sole spawning hotspot mapping, local ecological knowledge, otolith studies, a by-catch study, a fish identification guide, a gillnet study, updated stock assessment, a value chain study, exchange visits on fish processing and a Gambia-Senegal Comparative Costs study, among others.
 - Management committees established and actively participating in planning processes (LACOMS and NASCOM). NASCOM legally registered in The Gambia.
 - Agreement with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) on accelerated movement towards international certification of a sustainable Gambian sole fisheries product.
3. Implementation of the approved plan over the last 20 months, including institutionalization of the *processes* articulated in the plan for continued and active engagement of stakeholders:
- Registration of NASCOM, establishment of an office and a bank account, training in administrative and financial management and finalization of a Standard Operating Procedures Manual and Business Plan.
 - Hosting by NASCOM of the first annual review meeting for the Sole Co-Management Plan in October 2012.
 - Annual Sole Stock Assessment updates for 2012 and 2013 (2013 final report pending).
 - Outreach by NASCOM to fishing communities and local authorities about the Co-Management Plan and the 1 nm seasonally closed area.
 - Implementation of the closure starting on May 1, 2013 (through October). Deployment by NASCOM of 42 locally made spar buoys to mark the area.
 - Monitoring and enforcement, including local fishermen engaging their own resources to accompany local authorities. As of September 2013, NASCOM has begun to receive penalty payments for noncompliance with the closed area.
 - Private sector engagement: Donation of 100,000 Euros to NASCOM by German Seafood Company Kaufland to support further progress towards MSC certification. Demonstrated commitment by Atlantic Seafood Company in The Gambia to collect and share data for stock assessment.
 - Adaptive Management: The following research has been conducted. Resulting recommendations will be considered for approval at the 2nd annual co-management plan review meeting in November 2013:
 - Completion of a Mesh Size Gillnet Study in 2013 (report pending) as recommended by the 2012 annual co-management plan review meeting to test the effectiveness of a further increase in the minimum mesh size from 40mm to 42-46mm. The recommendation is to increase minimum mesh size.

- Local Ecological Knowledge and Scientific Knowledge of Catfish was documented and reviewed by stakeholders in Year 4. An Amendment to the Sole Fishery Co-Management Plan to expand its scope to a Multi-Species Plan including Catfish has been drafted for consideration.
- 4. An approved [Cockle and Oyster Fishery Co-Management Plan for the Tanbi Wetlands National Park Special Management Area](#) in January 2012 bringing 6,304 ha under improved management (the entire Tanbi Wetlands National Park). The plan designates TRY Oyster Women's Association as having exclusive use rights in this area, specifies an extended closed season to allow oysters to grow to a larger size before harvesting and identifies gear restrictions to reduce damage to mangroves during harvesting.
- 5. A successful participatory, eco-system-based co-management planning processes that resulted in the Co-Management Plan and included the following achievements among others:
 - Action research and technical studies including, a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), spat settlement studies, oyster aquaculture pilots, a value chain study, exchange visits on fish processing, water quality monitoring of the Tanbi harvesting areas and regular shoreline shellfish sanitation surveys showing high potential for a shellfish sanitation program to open new markets.
 - TRY Community Management Committees established and actively participating in planning processes.
 - Institutional strengthening grants to the TRY women's oyster harvesters association to establish business and fundraising strategies, a Standard Operating Procedures manual, conduct an audit, and benefit from administrative and financial management training.
 - TRY outreach and fundraising event in 2011 attended by more than 250 non-TRY participants including the US Ambassador and the President of The Gambia. Raised 100,000 GMD, 20 scholarships for TRY children and significantly increased awareness of efforts to sustainably manage the oyster fishery.
 - 250 women oyster harvesters participating in a Micro-Credit Scheme
 - TRY selected as a UNDP Equator Prize winner in 2012.
- 6. Implementation of the approved plan over the last 20 months, including:
 - Compliance with the 8 month closed season in 2012 and 2013
 - Mangrove planting (33.5ha)
 - UNDP funding leveraged for processing activities
 - GEF, British Council and Taiwanese funding leveraged for rack culture scale up

- Hosting by TRY of the first annual review meeting for the Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Plan in January 2013. The meeting sparked a daily call-in segment on local radio featuring TRY's activities to sustainably manage the oyster fishery that continued for a week due to public interest.
 - Market survey of hotels
 - Biological sampling of oysters at sales points
 - Health and literacy classes for TRY members, linking them to local health services and service providers. 80% of trainees accessed services as a result of the training.
 - 15 TRY daughters complete TRY's 2 year skills training program, including health topics.
 - Adaptive Management: In FY13 TRY members reconsidered the difficulties of the extended (eight month) closed season and voted on a proposal to change the season and to reduce it. After consideration of available information and results to date, they overwhelmingly decided to maintain the closure as specified in the approved plan.
7. A bi-lateral Oyster and Cockle Co-Management planning process initiated in the Allahein River estuary on the border of The Gambia and Southern Senegal (Cassamance). Allahein Kafo, a joint management body is being formed by stakeholders.
 8. The first Bilateral (Gambia-Senegal) Fisheries Co-Management Workshop held in 2012.
 9. A [Bilateral Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#) and a [Stakeholder Workshop](#) where 18 government and civil society institutions from Senegal and The Gambia identified priorities for a Bilateral Climate Change Adaptation initiative submitted to USAID/WA in July 2012.
 10. Water and sanitation infrastructure, training and community WASH management plans at two of six priority fish landing and oyster harvesting sites almost complete (public water connections being finalized). Two additional sites nearing completion.
 11. DoFish staff trained in Fish Biology, leadership, stock assessment, and 2 completed BS degree programs in Nigeria. These are among the 1,716 people trained to date, 72% of whom were women.
 12. Sharing of The Gambia Co-Management experience, by TRY, NASCOM, The Gambia Government and USAID/BaNafaa internationally in Africa, Europe, the US and Globally. Activities range from French translation and sharing of the Co-Management Plans with Senegal, to participation of the USAID/BaNafaa Project Manager in the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Dialogue, to TRY participation in Rio+20, among many others.

3. Year Five Activities

3.1 Introduction

USAID/BaNafaa's approach for the remaining 7 months of the project is to focus on consolidating achievements made and ensuring that measures, systems and procedures already developed are functioning and can be sustained when project assistance ends. Institutionalizing the adaptive management process around which the two approved co-management plans were designed will continue to be a key priority as the project wraps up. Continuing to reinforce the capacity of the government and civil society co-management institutions responsible for implementation of the two plans will also be central to all Year 5 activities. Due to limited remaining funds, Biodiversity funded activities in particular will be finalized by December 2013 and the remaining months used only to complete WASH activities and to prepare for close-out.

3.2 Intermediate Result 1:

Strategies to increase social and economic benefits to artisanal fishing communities, and otherwise create incentives for a sustainable fisheries agenda in the WAMER identified, tested and applied.¹

3.2.1 Effective Sole/Multispecies Catfish Fishery Co-Management Plan

The potential both for advancing the sustainable fisheries management agenda and for social and economic benefits for artisanal fishing communities in the sole fishery in The Gambia is significant as stakeholders in The Gambia continue to engage in participatory ecosystem based co-management of the artisanal Sole fishery under the approved co-management plan. The USAID/BaNafaa project has been the most significant partner of The Gambian Government and fisheries stakeholders in this effort. Year 5 activities described below will focus on the sustainability of the co-management process as project assistance ends.

Accomplishing the milestone of an approved sole co-management plan has also advanced the process of meeting Marine Stewardship Council standards for fisheries in transition. While MSC certification has not been the objective of project support, the Gambia's efforts to meet MSC standards are stimulating increasing interest from suppliers of sustainable seafood to Europe. USAID/BaNafaa support for the remaining 7 months of the project aims to leave stakeholders in a stronger position to manage this demand. The project, particularly through NASCOM capacity strengthening activities, intends to support an enabling environment for potential price premiums from increasing market demand for sustainably harvested seafood from The Gambia to be realized at the artisanal fisher level.

¹ Note that the Co-Management Plans and most of the other activities described under IR1 also contribute to IRs 2, 3 and 4. Likewise, some of the activities described under IR2 also contribute to IR1.

Gazetting the Sole Fishery Co-Management Plan.

Gazetting of the Plan after its approval in January 2012 has not been completed as hoped in Year 4. Facilitating NASCOM and The Government of The Gambia to complete gazetting will be a USAID/BaNafaa priority for Year 5. It is hoped that the process, which is underway, can be completed before the 2nd Annual Sole Co-Management Plan Review meeting in mid-November 2013. Once gazetted, the Co-Management institutions will have the force of law behind them when official enforcement actions are required. However, fisher community consensus created through the participatory co-management planning process is still the most important factor that has resulted in general compliance with the plan over the 2013 closed season (May 1 – October 31). NASCOM has in fact already begun collecting penalty payments.

Institutionalize Adaptive Management.

Integral to the co-management planning process is the need for stakeholders to consider further management options to maintain sustainability of the multi-species complex. In other words, consideration of management options to better align the resource to the biological reference points. Support from USAID/BaNafaa in Year 5 will continue to create the enabling environment for this to happen.

USAID/BaNafaa will provide technical and financial support for NASCOM to host the 2nd Annual Sole Fishery Co-Management Plan Review Meeting in mid-November 2013. The Review Meeting will consider:

- Findings of an updated stock assessment (using 2012 data),
- Findings of the Mesh Size Gillnet Study recommended at last year's review meeting, including an amendment to the Plan to increase the minimum allowable mesh size from 40 to 42-46 mm.
- Efficacy of the 42 spar buoys deployed in early 2013 to mark the 1 nm seasonal closure.
- An amendment to the Plan to expand its scope to a Multi-Species Plan, including Catfish.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene improvements at sole landing sites.
- Next Steps in the MSC certification process.

Strengthen Co-Management Organizations' Capacity.

Since signature of the co-management plans in January 2012, consistent support to the co-management organizations through at least two annual cycles of implementation and monitoring of the management measures has been a key strategy of project assistance. Practicing the adaptive management approach embodied in the plans will be a significant factor in institutionalizing the co-management approach and demonstrating its success both to NASCOM members and as a model for other fisheries and other countries. In Year 5, USAID/BaNafaa

project support to NASCOM will end in December 2013 as activities already identified in the second capacity strengthening seed grant provided to NASCOM in FY 13 are carried out. These include hosting of the 2nd annual Sole Co-Management Plan review meeting and organization of the 2nd Annual Bi-lateral Co-Management Meeting between The Gambia and Senegal, which was not conducted in May 2013 as planned, but is now scheduled for mid-November 2013 (see IR 2 below).

Enlarge the Scope of the Sole Fishery Co-Management Plan to Include Catfish.

Based on the Bycatch Study conducted for the Sole Co-Management planning process, Catfish, Cymbium, and Sole make up 80% of the catch by weight for the Sole targeted fishery using gillnets. Since this fishery is associated with the same nets, landing sites and fishermen as sole, a catfish management plan along with sole can be easily integrated with work already done on sole and involves the same stakeholder groups. Management responsibilities for Catfish could also be added to the charge of the sole management committee. This will close existing gaps in the ecosystem based sustainable management approach. The potential for economic benefits to artisanal fishing communities will, likewise, be broadened under a multi-species plan. While Sole is caught almost exclusively for the export market, Catfish is valued in local, regional and international markets.

In Years 3 and 4, USAID/BaNafaa provided technical assistance to research, document and share with stakeholders Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) and Scientific Knowledge of Catfish. As anticipated in the Year 4 Workplan, a draft Amendment to the Sole Fishery Co-Management Plan to expand its scope to a Multi-Species Plan, including Catfish was produced.

In Year 5, additional scientific findings on Catfish based on the new Mesh Size Gillnet Study conducted in Year 4 and the draft Amendment will be presented and discussed at the Annual Sole Fishery Co-Management Plan Review Meeting in mid-November 2013. Official approval of the Co-Management Plan Amendment at this meeting (i.e., before USAID/BaNafaa assistance ends) will depend on stakeholder views at all levels, from fisherfolk to DoFish authorities. Prior to the meeting NASCOM, through funding for stakeholder consultation included in their seed grant, will work to understand and address these views with the aim of presenting an “approvable” plan. One of the lessons learned about the participatory co-management planning process to date is that adequate time for understanding of and consultation on the issues by all stakeholder groups is critical to ensure that management measures proposed are feasible and are owned and appropriated by those who will implement them.

Support readiness for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) provisional/conditional certification.

The Gambia is an MSC pilot country for fisheries in transition which helps developing countries move towards sustainability. In Year 5, NASCOM intends to request another MSC pre-assessment or assessment before USAID/BaNafaa ends (i.e., before December) based on project assistance in documenting progress on gaps identified in the 2008 pre-assessment.

USAID/BaNafaa's focus will continue to be on sustainable management of the Sole (and now multispecies including Catfish) fishery. MSC certification of The Gambia Sole fishery is one potential opportunity that could result. Certification or provisional certification could provide economic benefits to Gambian stakeholders, either through maintaining export opportunities in an increasingly demanding market and/or improving them while also creating added incentive to sustainably manage the fishery.

IR1 Activities	FY14			Local Implementing Partners	BaNafaa in-country	URI
	Q1	Q2	April			
Gazetting of the Sole Co-Management Plan				DoFish, NASCOM	Ousman WWF	Karen
Complete Seed Grant #2 Capacity Strengthening to NASCOM				NASCOM	Ousman	Karen, Castro
- 2 nd Annual Co-Management Plan Review Meeting				NASCOM	Ousman	Castro
- Consult stakeholders on draft Amendment to the Sole Co-Management Plan for Catfish. Possible approval.				NASCOM, DoFish	Ousman, Gibril, WWF	Castro
Organize 2 nd Annual Bi-lateral Co-Management Meeting (see also IR2)				NASCOM, DoFish	Ousman, WWF	Castro

Activity Implementation Schedule

Key Outputs and Milestones

- Gazetted Sole Co-Management Plan
- Sole Co-Management Plan Meeting Report
- Amendment to the Sole Co-Management Plan for Catfish (potential)
- Amendment to the Sole Co-Management Plan for increased Mesh Size (potential)
- Next Steps on MSC process identified for action.

No.	Indicator	FY14 Target
11	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance	1 Sole Plan amendment

Key Results

3.2.2 Effective Oyster and Cackle Co-Management Plan

The key strategy of the USAID/BaNafaa project to support development of a participatory ecosystem based co-management approach in The Gambia for sustainable management of the oyster and cockle fishery and adjacent mangroves was to team up with TRY Oyster Women’s Association and build on what the Association was already doing with the oyster and cockle harvesters. Building the capacity of the Association to serve members needs and uplift their quality of life has been the key long term goal. The project’s near term goal was to develop a model of a co-management plan that empowers the women harvesters to directly manage the harvesting of the oysters and cockles, and that can be replicated in other mangrove subsystems within the country and region.

With approval of The Oyster and Cackle Co-Management Plan for the Tanbi Wetlands National Park in Year 3, this goal has been achieved. In Year 4, the project supported effective implementation of the Plan, as well as replication of the model in the cockle and oyster harvesting community and mangrove ecosystem in Kartong, also affiliated with TRY. Initiation of a transboundary oyster and cockle management planning process in this zone (the Allahein River estuary) was also initiated with project support. In Year 5 project support to TRY will end in December 2013 as these activities wrap up as described below:

Gazetting the Oyster and Cackle Fishery Co-Management Plan for the Tanbi.

Gazetting of the Plan after its approval in January 2012 has not been completed as hoped in Year 4. Facilitating TRY and The Government of The Gambia to complete gazetting will be a USAID/BaNafaa priority for Year 5. It is hoped that the process, which is underway, can be completed before the 2nd Annual Oyster and Cackle Co-Management Plan Review Meeting in November 2013. Once gazetted, the Co-Management institutions will have the force of law behind them when official enforcement actions are required. However, TRY community consensus created through the participatory co-management planning process is still the most important factor contributing to on-going compliance with the plan over the last two years.

Institutionalize Adaptive Management.

In Year 5, USAID/BaNafaa will provide technical and financial assistance for TRY to host the 2nd annual Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Plan Review Meeting in the October – December period. The review meeting will consider the following topics among others:

- Data on oyster size and weight collected at a sample of sales points every two weeks over the 4 month open season in 2013,
- Progress on water quality testing and shellfish sanitation planning,
- Progress on WASH improvements at oyster harvesting sites
- Processing and marketing improvements,
- Aquaculture/rack culture scale up funded by UNDP, Taiwan and the British Counsel
- Sustainability of co-management plan activities without USAID/BaNafaa support

Strengthen TRY Capacity.

Since signature of the co-management plans in January 2012, consistent support to the co-management organizations through at least two annual cycles of implementation and monitoring of the management measures has been a key strategy of project assistance. Practicing the adaptive management approach embodied in the plans will be a significant factor in institutionalizing the co-management approach and demonstrating its success both to TRY members and as a model for other fisheries and other countries. In Year 5, USAID/BaNafaa project support to TRY will end in December 2013 as activities identified in FY 13 are carried out and completed. Project support for the Peace Corps Volunteer and contributions to TRY operating costs (rent, internet, utilities, fuel) ended in September. The Annual Co-Management Plan Review Meeting is the key activity in FY14.

During the October - December period, the project will continue to provide technical assistance to TRY to implement activities funded with cost share and to plan for sustainability. The project will also facilitate TRY to network internationally to share the co-management experience and to leverage support for its activities in the future. For example, as a result of the presentation by the Director of TRY at the Wilson Center in July 2013 (organized through URI contacts and funded by the Wilson Center), she has been invited and provided a scholarship to present TRY's experience at the 2013 International Population Health Environment (PHE) Conference in November 2013 in Ethiopia.

Document Next Steps in the Allahein River Estuary Bi-lateral Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Planning Process.

In Years 3 and 4, USAID/BaNafaa support for participatory action research on cockle ranching and a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in Kartong oyster and cockle harvesting communities formed the basis for initiation of a bi-lateral co-management planning process covering the

Allahein River estuary shared by Senegal and The Gambia. Joint meetings and outreach among communities in each country conducted in Year 4 are documented in a report. In addition, TRY has already been including Senegalese women harvesters from the proposed joint management committee, Allahein Kafo, in TRY trainings and meetings. In the October to December period 2013, one additional joint meeting will be conducted to plan next steps. The hope is that TRY, Allahein Kafo and DoFish will have the capacity to complete the process on their own, having done it before and will have documentation of the process to date that can help them to solicit support from donors if needed.

Support Development of a Gambia National Shellfish Sanitation Plan.

Water quality testing at 15+ oyster harvesting sites in and around the Tanbi Wetlands National Park since 2010 have shown and continue to show encouraging results as detailed in Project progress reports. These results are among the lowest counts in tropical oyster growing grounds and suggest that a shellfish sanitation program could allow for the safe harvest of live oysters for a raw oyster market to tourist hotels or, potentially, an eventual export market. The aim has been to start laying the foundation for a shellfish sanitation program including traceability standards. In Years 3 and 4, the project took the next step and supported the Water Resources Laboratory with the training and resources to conduct [shoreline sanitation surveys](#) of the Tanbi National Park every 6 months. In conjunction with water quality data, the results of these surveys are now available to decision-makers. In Year 5, the following activities will be conducted to consolidate achievements to date and to facilitate continuation of the process by the responsible Gambian agencies. Dr. Michael Rice of URI will continue to provide technical assistance.

- The project will continue on-going work with stakeholders to establish an interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the development of a Gambian National Shellfish Sanitation Plan for the Tanbi Wetlands National Park (GNSSP – Tanbi). Signature of the MOU is expected by February.
- Monthly Water quality testing conducted by the Water Resources Laboratory through a contract from the URI in-country office will continue to be supported by the project in FY 14 through the end of December 2013. Commitments to fund water quality testing from the Water Resources Laboratory’s budget or other Government of The Gambia sources starting in January 2014, will be included in the interagency MOU for development of GNSSP-Tanbi.
- A Draft GNSSP-Tanbi will be developed by January 2014 with USAID/BaNafaa support, including training in and designation of the preliminary mapping of water quality zones that will form the basis for management actions.

IR1 Activities	FY14			Local Implementing Partners	BaNafaa in-country	URI
	Q1	Q2	April			
Gazetting of the Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Plan				DoFish, TRY	Ousman WWF	Karen
Complete Seed Grant #4 and #5 Capacity Strengthening to TRY				TRY	Ousman, Babanding	Karen,
- 2 nd Annual Co-Management Plan Review Meeting				TRY	Ousman, Babandiing	Karen
- Allahein River Estuary bi-lateral co-management process meeting conducted.				TRY	Ousman, WWF, Babanding	Karen
Monthly Water Quality testing continued				Water Resources Lab. DoFish,	Bamba	Dr. Rice
Inter-agency MOU for development of GNSSP – Tanbi developed and signed, including commitments to fund water quality testing by February 2014.				Water Lab, DoFish, DPWM, DOH, NEA	Bamba, Ousman Babanding	Dr, Rice
Draft GNSSP – Tanbi developed, including training in and preliminary mapping of water quality zones				Water Lab, DoFish, NEA, DPWM, DOH	Bamba, Ousman, Babanding	Dr. Rice

Activity Implementation Schedule

Key Outputs and Milestones

- Gazetted Cockle and Oyster Co-Management Plan
- Co-Management Plan Meeting Report
- Next Steps Document for Allahein River Estuary co-management planning process.
- Monthly and annual Water Quality Reports
- Mapping of Water Quality Zones
- Interagency MOU for the development of a GNSSP – Tanbi
- Draft GNSSP - Tanbi

No.	Indicator	FY14 Target
5	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation. (F 4.8.1-27)	8 Water Quality zone mapping
11	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance	1 GNSSP-Tanbi MOU

Key Results

3.2.3 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The USAID/BaNafaa Project was awarded a Water and Sanitation (WASH) add-on at the end of Year 2 to support needed water supply and sanitation improvements at approximately seven public sole fishery and oyster/cockle fishery landing/processing sites by April 2014. The WASH component will provide direct benefit to the thousands of fishermen, oyster harvesters, women fish venders, small scale fish processors and other laborers that utilize these facilities daily. An added benefit is that clean water supply and sanitary facilities at these sites will also result in improved sanitary handling of seafood supply and result in safer and healthier seafood product that enters both the local food chain as well as processing centers for export. In addition, recent research on small-scale African fisheries suggests that addressing high priority fisher household vulnerabilities such as water, sanitation and health issues are likely to increase incentives for fishermen to engage in more sustainable fisheries management practices².

To implement WASH, URI established an in-country office at the TRY Center in Year 3, recruited a WASH Coordinator and an Administrative/Finance Assistant and contracted with local implementing partners. TARUD was contracted to conduct a needs assessment, training and management planning. GAMWORKS was contracted for the design, environmental assessment, sub-contracting and oversight/quality control of infrastructure construction. The WASH Needs Assessment in 16 communities identified the following priority sites for USAID/BaNafaa WASH activities. The status of WASH activities as of September 30, 2013 is indicated below.

² Mills, D., et al. 2009. Vulnerability in small-scale African fishing communities. J. Int. Dev. DOI: 10.1002/jid.

No.	Site	Rank() and type of site	Comments
1	Brufut	(1) Fisheries	Training, Community Management Plan and Infrastructure complete. H2O connection by NAWEC pending.
2	Kamalo	(1) Oysters	Training complete. Community Management Plan in final draft, infrastructure 35% complete.
3	Sanyang	(3) Fisheries	To be completed by end March 2014. Sanitary facilities only. The site has water.
4	Jeshwang	(3) Fisheries and Oysters	Training, Community Management Plans and Infrastructure complete. H2O connection and electricity by NAWEC pending.
5	Abuko	(3) Oysters	WASH facilities not possible due to lack of appropriate location at the site.
6	Kartong	(6) Fisheries and Oysters	Training complete. Community Management Plan in final draft, infrastructure 35% complete.
7	Tanji	(7) Fisheries	In place of Abuko, to be completed by end March 2014. Sanitary facilities only. The site has water.

WASH Activities Status as of September 30, 2013

In Year 5, implementation of the WASH component will focus on official handover of completed WASH facilities. At the first 4 sites, Brufut, Jeshwang, Kamalo and Kartong, a ceremony is anticipated in early December 2013, including USAID/WA officials and the US Ambassador to The Gambia. Communities will begin using completed WASH facilities as soon as they are ready and not wait for the official handover ceremonies.

For the last 2 sites (Sanyang and Tanji), training, management planning and infrastructure construction will be conducted from October 2013 through March when handover of these sites is planned. Management planning resulting in signed WASH site and facilities management plans will be led by the WASH Coordinator. As for the first 4 sites, plans will include a financial sustainability plan (e.g. user fees), maintenance and repair responsibilities, and personal hygiene as well as fish handling and processing sanitation good practices. The specific Year 5 activities at these 2 sites for each implementing partner are as follows:

For TARUD,

- Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training for 80 participants (40 per site) aimed at CFC Management Committees, User Groups, and

Local Government Authority. The training will include items such as personal hygiene, waste management, as well as management and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities.

- Training of Trainers on community awareness raising and outreach on hygiene promotion. The broader community of fishermen, fish vendors and handlers will be targeted for training and outreach on hygiene promotion, sanitation and safe disposal of fish waste through a training of trainers approach. Twenty trainers will be trained per site.
- Fish Handling and Hygiene Training. Twenty participants per site for each of the last 2 sites will be trained.
- Monitoring and Evaluation. The evaluation is meant to assess behavior change and the results of the training as well as use of the facilities and degree of implementation of the WASH Management Plan for the site, including level of cleanliness of the sanitation and water facilities, maintenance problems, environmental problems (erosion, seepage/leaks, fish disposal, solid waste disposal, etc.). The evaluation will be conducted according to the following schedule:
 1. Old Jeshwang and Brufut: December 2013
 2. Kamallo and Kartong: February 2014
 3. Sanyang and Tanji: March 2014

It is expected that at least 4 of the sites will have 2 months of use of the facilities by the time they are evaluated.

For GAMWORKS,

- Environmental Compliance activities in accordance with the EMMP, especially with regard to the construction period.
- Designs for the 2 additional sites.
- Contracting with construction firms for construction at the additional 2 sites.
- Oversight of construction and environmental compliance at construction sites.
- Handover of water and sanitation facilities at 4 sites by early December 2013 and the additional 2 sites by the end of March 2014.

URI will organize and manage public handover ceremony events in collaboration with USAID/WA, DoFish, implementing partners and site Management Committees.

To reinforce sustainability after the USAID/BaNafaa Project ends, the in-country WASH office will organize and facilitate training for DoFish agents based at the 6 WASH sites with their supervisor at DoFish in Banjul. The training will include the 3 WASH Management Committee members responsible for financial management from each of the 8 WASH Management Committees at the 6 sites. The training will clarify roles and responsibilities of DoFish for

oversight and monitoring of WASH management at the sights and will provide financial management training for key WASH Management Committee members at each site.

IRI Activities	FY14			Local Implementing Partners	BaNafaa in-country	URI
	Q1	Q2	April			
PHAST Training for 2 sites (Sanyang & Tanji)				TARUD	Bamba	Karen
Community awareness raising, training and outreach for 2 sites through TOT model (Sanyang & Tanji)				TARUD	Bamba	Karen
Management planning final for Kartong, Kamalo					Bamba	Karen
Fish Handling and Hygiene Training 2 sites (Sanyang & Tanji)				TARUD	Bamba	Karen
Management planning for Sanyang, Tanji					Bamba	Karen
Environmental Compliance activities at construction sites				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen
Site designs for 2 additional sites				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen
Contracting for construction of infrastructure at 2 additional sites				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen
Complete Construction at Kartong, Kamalo				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen
Complete Construction at Sanyang, Tanji				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen
Handover of 4 completed infrastructure				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen
Training in DoFish Supervision and WASH Committee financial management				DoFish	Bamba, Assan	Karen
M&E				TARUD	Bamba	Karen
Handover of last 2 completed infrastructure				GAMWORKS	Bamba	Karen

Activity Implementation Schedule

Key Outputs and Milestones

- Last 2 communities trained in PHAST
- Last 2 communities TOT for community awareness raising, training and outreach. TOT modules and support materials and post training action plans for trained trainers at each of 2 sites showing how trainers will in turn train an average of 1000 people per site (more at larger fisheries sites and fewer at smaller oyster sites).
- Signed WASH Management Plans for all 6 sites (at handover events).
- 2 approved site designs (Sanyang and Tanji).
- Handover of water and sanitation facilities at 4 sites in December 2013 and last 2 sites in March/April 2014.
- M&E Reports (a report for each phase = 3 phases)

No.	Indicator	FY14 Target
W1	Improved access to water and sanitation facilities	20,000
W2	Number of persons receiving public health and sanitation training (PHAST)	80
W3	Number of persons receiving training and outreach messages on hygiene promotion	6000
W4	Community water and sanitation committees established and trained with program assistance	2
5	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation. (F 4.8.1-27)	184 PHAST, TOT, Fish Hygiene + DoFish WASH supervision and Management Committee Financial Management
2	No people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance	40 Improved Fish handling & hygiene

Key Results

3.3 Intermediate Result 2:

Institutional capacity strengthened at all levels of governance to implement an ecosystem-based, co-management approach to sustainable fisheries, and to prevent overfishing.³

3.3.1 DoFish Stock Assessment Capacity Strengthened.

DoFish human resources capacity to do stock assessment and analysis strengthened to improve regularity and quality of measurement of the biological status of the stock.

In Year 5 with limited time and resources remaining, this effort will include the following activities to be supported with technical assistance from URI Fisheries Center staff Kathy Castro, including during her last visit to The Gambia in November 2013:

- Follow up on discussion of ideas developed at the URI Summer Institute course on Fisheries Leadership in July 2013 for the organization and functioning of the DoFish Statistics Unit. Focus will be on sustainability of the stock assessment function at DoFish after USAID/BaNafaa Support ends in December 2013.
- Additional laminated copies of the Fish Identification Guide for DoFish staff.

3.3.2 Progress on Bi-lateral Sustainable Fisheries Management Issues.

Develop Cabinet Paper on Recommendations to Address Comparative Cost Study Issues.

The value chain for sole identified the fact that an unknown quantity of sole is transshipped into Senegal and much of this transshipment is not being fully captured by the DoFish statistics (and distorts Senegal sole capture statistics). Implications for marketing an eco-labeled product is also a concern. Sole is loaded into trucks coming from the Casamance but reported as caught in Senegal and then transshipped to Senegal for eventual processing and export. Ecolabeling may help curtail this trade, but other measures might be identified to bring this illegal trade into the open. Therefore, additional assessment of the incentives for cross border trade, a [Comparative Cost Study on Sole Fish: The Gambia and Senegal](#), was carried out to fully understand market context and opportunities for improved marketing that benefits more fully Gambian fishermen, processors and exporters.

The Comparative Cost Study stakeholder validation meeting recommended that a committee be established to develop a Cabinet Paper on the issues identified. This paper will be important in setting the agenda for negotiations of renewal of Senegal-Gambia bilateral fisheries agreement. In May 2013, an initial meeting to begin organizing this effort was held and the Deputy

³ Note that many of the activities described under IR1 also contribute to IR2.

Permanent Secretary (DPS) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources was designated by the meeting participants to lead the next steps in this process. In Quarter 1 of Year 5, USAID/BaNafaa staff and partners (NASCOM) will facilitate this work, led by the DPS with the aim of a draft Cabinet Paper by December 2013.

Conduct the 2nd Annual Bi-lateral Co-Management Workshop.

In May 2012, USAID/BaNafaa supported the first Bi-lateral (Gambia-Senegal) Co-Management Workshop bringing together fisher-level participants and government representatives from both countries. As documented in the mid-term evaluation of the USAID/BaNafaa Project, the event was well received and resulted in the recommendation that it be institutionalized and held annually. The second annual gathering of the forum planned for Year 4, Quarter 3 was delayed and is now scheduled for mid-November 2013 in The Gambia. Objectives include:

1. Joint management planning for shared stocks between The Gambia and Senegal discussed and next steps recommended.
2. Best Management Practices shared and spread.
3. The annual bi-lateral forum is institutionalized with commitments for organizing and funding future forums made.

3.3.3 End of Project Stakeholder Review and Closeout Workshop.

An end of project stakeholder review and closeout meeting to take stock of project results and to reinforce sustainability plans for key activities will be combined with the handover event for the final 2 WASH facilities in March 2014.

IR1 Activities	FY14			Local Implementing Partners	BaNafaa in-country	URI
	Q1	Q2	April			
Assist DoFish Statistics unit to plan for sustainable stock assessment capacity.				DoFish	Ousman, WWF	Castro
Facilitate Comparative Cost Study draft Cabinet Paper development				DoFish, NASCOM	Ousman, WWF	Karen
Bilateral Co-Management (Gambia/Senegal) 2 nd Annual Workshop				NASCOM, DoFish	Ousman, WWF	Castro
End of Project Stakeholder Review and Closeout Workshop				DoFish, NASCOM, TRY	Ousman, Bamba	Karen

Key Outputs and Milestones

- Draft Cross Border Trade Cabinet Paper.
- 2nd Annual Bi-Lateral Co-Management Workshop Report

No.	Indicator	FY13 Target
5	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation. (F 4.8.1-27)	50 Bi-lateral co-management workshop

Key Results

3.4 Intermediate Result 3:

Nursery areas and spawning areas for critical life stages of commercially important species and for associated marine turtles and mammals are protected

The Co-Management plans and Year 5 activities described under IR1 will also contribute to this IR. These include the:

- Expanded Sole/Catfish Fishery Co-Management Plan
- Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Plan for the Tanbi
- Next Steps in Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Planning for the Allahein River Estuary

3.5 Intermediate Result 4:

Change unsustainable and destructive marine resource use practices that threaten improved biodiversity conservation in the West Africa Marine Ecoregion.

The Co-Management plans and activities described under IR1 will also contribute to this IR. These include the:

- Expanded Sole/Catfish Fishery Co-Management Plan,
- Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Plan for the Tanbi
- Next Steps in Oyster and Cockle Co-Management Planning for the Allahein River Estuary

No.	Indicator	FY14 Target
12	No. of Hectares in areas of biological significance under improved natural resource management (ROECCR 1.1):	0 additional Allahein Plan in draft. Catfish added, but not adding Ha.

Key Results

3.6 Communications and Outreach

The Project will produce several outreach and communications products in Year 5. This will include preparing outputs of the technical studies conducted in Year 4 as “technical reports” and made available via the CRC website. The Workplan, Success Stories and Management Plans will also be made publically available via the CRC website and the DEC clearinghouse. The project will also work with the communications officer at USAID/West Africa to inform them of events that may be of interest to have USAID staff attend, for review of press releases and to provide them with success stories.

4. Project Management

4.1 Strategic Partners

Since this Project is an Associate Award under the Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement for *Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems* (SUCCESS) Program, the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at the University of Rhode Island (URI) is the lead institution responsible for overall Project management and implementation including programmatic and financial reporting to the USAID/West Africa Regional Office. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) West Africa Marine Program Office (WAMPO) located in Dakar, Senegal with a field office in The Gambia is the primary regional and in-country implementation partner for the fisheries activities to be implemented in Year 5. Some fisheries work with local partners is managed administratively directly by the URI in-country office that also manages WASH activities. These include TRY, NASCOM and the Water Resources Laboratory activities. However, the USAID/BaNafaa Project Manager at WWF in The Gambia continues to oversee all activities programmatically. The WASH component that started in Year 3 is implemented by local partners TARUD and GAMWORKS contracting directly with URI in the US.

Several other organizations play critical partnership roles in implementation or as primary clients who benefit from the Project. The Gambia Department of Fisheries (DoFish) is the primary national institution identified for institutional strengthening as well as the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management. Also targeted are the National Sole Co-Management Committee, Landing Site Co-Management Committees, Community Fisheries Centers and the TRY Oyster Women’s Association. Each contributes resources (e.g. staff time, equipment, etc.) to implementing a unified vision for the Project. Additional partners with roles include the USAID West Africa Regional Office and USAID Senegal. At the regional scale, the USAID Wula Nafaa II and USAID/COMFISH Project in Senegal and other ongoing donor regional initiatives also play a role. The Project also coordinates with other U.S. government-funded initiatives in the region as appropriate.

In Year 5, the WWF sub-contract will end in December 2013. Field activities except WASH and GNSSP will end at this time.

4.2 Operational Staffing and Lines of Authority

CRC and the WWF-WAMPO are the primary Project management and implementation partners. CRC will supervise WWF in their role in the Project. The in-country Project Manager (PM) is a full time position contracted by and housed in the WWF field office in The Gambia. He is the primary liaison with the USAID/West Africa Regional Office in Accra, Ghana. The PM develops detailed terms of reference, contracts and supervises local consultants and other local partners contracted to provide Project services. Other full time local staff are contracted by WWF. Both WWF and CRC provide short-term foreign technical assistance and consultants as needed. The PM directs and supervises in-country field staff and activities, and is responsible for day-to-day field operations in The Gambia. CRC/URI has also established its own in-country office in The Gambia, primarily to manage the WASH component that began in Year 3, but also to implement directly some of the fisheries work with local partners previously managed under the WWF sub-contract. The WASH Coordinator and an Administration and Finance Assistant manage the URI in-country office. The WASH Coordinator is supervised by the BaNafaa Project Manager and provided oversight by the U.S. based BaNafaa lead.

The WWF National Program Coordinator in The Gambia serves as a senior advisor to the project. The Director of International Programs at CRC/URI (Brian Crawford) also serves as a senior advisor. Karen Kent is the CRC/URI staff with overall responsibility and oversight of the Project. Since URI is the legally entity in charge of the Project, Karen Kent is also the URI staff person responsible to USAID. Extension staff are supervised by the PM and serve as the lead organizers, facilitators and liaisons with community-level government, civil society organizations and local NGOs. The PM will also act as the main liaison with strategic partners in The Gambia at the national level and in the region, especially with the DoFish in The Gambia and Senegal, and with key private sector stakeholder groups.

Staff responsibilities for key management activities are depicted in the table below.

Note that CRC will submit a closeout plan to USAID/WA by January 31, 2014 (90 days before the April 30, 2014 project end date).

Program Areas	Local Implementing Partners	WWF/URI in-country Person	CRC Point of Contact
PMP reporting	WWF, TARUD, GAMWORKS, TRY, NASCOM, TAGFC	Ousman	Karen
TraiNet	WWF, TARUD, TRY, NASCOM, TAGFC	Ousman	Kaine
Quarterly and end of Project financial reporting	WWF, TARUD, GAMWORKS, TRY, NASCOM, TAGFC	Gaye, Bamba, Ousman	Kaine

Quarterly program reporting	WWF, TARUD, GAMWORKS, TRY, NASCOM, TAGFC	Ousman	Kent
Year 5 End of Project Reporting.	WWF, TARUD, GAMWORKS, TRY, NASCOM, DoFish	Ousman	Kent
Project closeout plan	WWF	Gaye, Bamba, Ousman	Kaine

4.3 Performance Management and Reporting

A summary of the Performance Management Plan (PMP) is presented in Appendix A. The PMP includes key results, refined performance targets disaggregated by year, specific monitoring parameters, and source(s) of data for each indicator. Time-bound targets were refined through the work planning process in consultation with local partners and beneficiaries. These targets have been reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary based on Project progress, experience and lessons learned. USAID standard indicators for Biodiversity, Climate Change and WASH are included in the PMP and are tagged for easy reference in Appendix A. **The indicators now include only ROECCR/USAID standard indicators and one custom URI indicator on governance scorecards.**

Quarterly performance monitoring reports document progress on achieving results. These reports include: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments against the targets established for the period; 2) explanation of quantifiable outputs generated by Project activities; 3) reasons why goals were or were not met. The data reported is supported by evidence collected and filed by the PM, or his designee, who will serve as the in-country PMP coordinator. The CRC provides quality control measures to ensure the PMP system is properly implemented.

The USAID/BaNafaa Project invests resources in monitoring and reporting to foster learning and adaptive management. Learning and sharing occurs across implementation sites and with other projects and programs. An internal self- assessment is conducted annually in conjunction with the work-planning meeting. Regular Project management and annual reporting activities are carried out by the CRC and WWF senior management team and coordinated by the PM. Main tasks and reporting requirements include:

- Preparation and submission of quarterly progress reports to USAID/West Africa CTO (Cognizant Technical Officer) and DoFish
- Timely and regular input of data into the USAID TrainNet system for all Project training activities
- Submission of all key documents such as workplans and technical reports to the USAID Development Clearinghouse.

- Annual self-assessment of progress and annual workplan preparation and submission by CRC/WWF for approval by USAID.
- Collection, analysis and reporting of data to USAID on Project indicators and targets for Project performance monitoring, submitted quarterly as part of the standard quarterly progress report
- Monthly accounting reports sent from WWF, TARUD, GAMWORKS, TRY and NASCOM to CRC
- Expenditure reports submitted to USAID from URI.

The schedule for producing the above listed tasks and reports are provided in the table below.

Activity	2013-2014												Responsible Person	
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A							
<i>Routine reporting</i>														
Monthly activity updates to CRC														OD, BB
Monthly key staff (WWF-CRC) Skype conference calls														KaKe
Quarterly PMP reporting														OD, BB
Draft quarterly report to URI for review														OD, BB
Review comments from CRC														KaKe
Quarterly reports to USAID														KaKe
Input PMP training data into the USAID TraiNet														KK
Stakeholder progress reporting and annual planning														OD, KaKe
Workplan to USAID														KaKe
Workplan approval by USAID														GYQ
<i>Financial Management</i>														
Monthly account reports from WWF, TARUD and GAMWORKS to CRC														MG, TARUD, GAMWORKS
Expenditure reports to USAID from CRC/URI														KK

Management and Administration Activity Implementation Schedule

4.4 International Travel Schedule

This international travel schedule does not include travel between The Gambia and Senegal, which for planning and management purposes is considered local travel. The following list captures all international travel other than within and between The Gambia and Senegal.

First Quarter

- Kathy Castro: (November 2013) Prepare and participate in the 2nd Annual Bi-Lateral Co-Management Meeting in The Gambia and the 2nd Annual Sole Co-Management Plan Review Meeting. TA to DoFish on sustainability of stock assessment.
- Karen Kent: (December 2013) WASH handover event.

Second Quarter

- Mike Rice: (January 2014) Gambian National Shellfish Sanitation Plan training, MOU signing and TA.
- Karen Kent: (March 2014) WASH handover and Project Review and Closeout meeting with stakeholders.
- Kim Kaine: (March 2014) Project Closeout.

4.5 Environmental Monitoring and Compliance

Based on the revised initial environmental evaluation (IEE) approved in 2011 for the project, an Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan is in place (see Appendix C.) to ensure no significant environmental impacts are occurring for those actions identified in the IEE with a negative determination subject to conditions. Activities being conducted this year that have conditions and require monitoring and/or mitigation plans include:

- Fisheries management plans
- WASH improvements at landing sites

Status on these activities will be included in the annual Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Report submitted to USAID.

4.6 Branding

The USAID/BaNafaa Project provides information through many existing channels. This includes through presentations at meetings, conferences, outreach sessions and other forums as well as through print media—e.g., peer-reviewed articles in professional journals, locally

produced Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, pamphlets, brochures, policy briefs, guides, and PowerPoint presentations. The main target audiences include local communities, local government agencies, national policymakers, grassroots NGOs, and other donors. Acknowledgement is always given to the generous support of the American people through USAID in all Project communications and materials. Also recognized are partnerships and support from local government ministries, agencies and departments who participate in various activities of the Project.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Type of USAID marking</i>	<i>Marking Code</i>	<i>Locations affected/ Explanation for any 'U'</i>
Press materials to announce Project progress and success stories	USAID logo (co-branded as appropriate)	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
Project brief / fact sheet	USAID logo (co-branded as appropriate)	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
PowerPoint presentations at meetings, workshops and trainings	USAID logo (co-branded as appropriate)	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
Brochures/posters on environmental issues	USAID logo (cobranded where/as appropriate)	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
Landing or marketing site facility improvements	USAID logo / stickers (cobranded where/as appropriate)	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
Project Office/room within WWF/Gambia office in Banjul	Project sign in English and local dialect name as well (<i>USAID/BaNafaa</i>) but no USAID identity used	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
CRC Project Office/room within TRY/Gambia office in Banjul	Project sign in English and local dialect name as well (<i>USAID/BaNafaa</i>) but no USAID identity used	M	Primarily a Gambian audience
Fisheries management plans		PE	Primarily a Gambian audience

Project vehicles, office furnishings and computer equipment purchased for project administration.	No USAID identity used	U	Standard exclusions under USAID marking guidelines/policies
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Marking Codes: M = Marked, U=Unmarked, PE = Presumptive Exception, W=Waiver

Synopsis of Planned Communication Items Affected by USAID Marking/Branding Regulations (ADS

FY 14	Biodiversity	WASH	TOTAL
Personnel	30,479	12,741	43,220
Consultants and In Country Staff	6,440	18,482	24,922
Fringe	12,945	6,965	19,910
Operating	32,785	15,957	48,742
Subagreements	55,602	179,253	234,855
Travel	12,600	8,400	21,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-
Total Direct	150,850	241,799	392,649
Modified Direct	95,249	62,546	157,794
Indirect	24,765	16,262	41,027
Total	175,615	258,061	433,676

320/AAPD 05-11)

5. Budget FY14

The Year 5 (FY14) summary budget of USAID funds is shown below by: (1) major accounting (object class) line items, and (2) funding source.

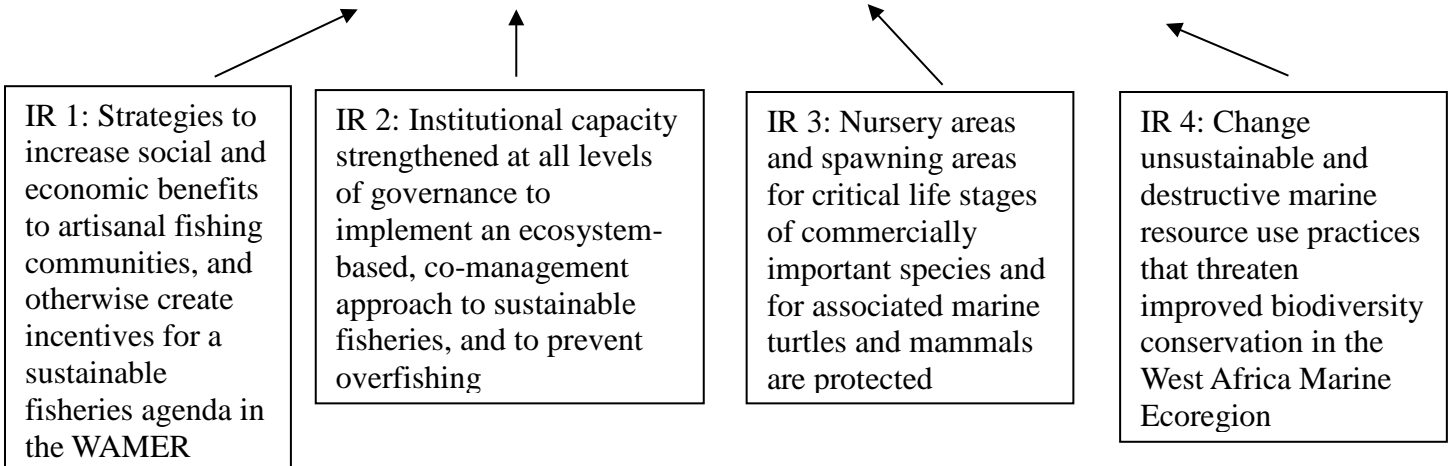
FY 13	Biodiversity	WASH	TOTAL
Personnel	57,136	25,554	82,690
Consultants and In Country Staff	45,099	27,372	72,471
Fringe	17,946	11,306	29,252
Operating	2,800	14,035	16,835
Subagreements	215,321	232,980	448,301
Travel	23,590	14,607	38,197
Capital Equipment			
Total Direct	361,891	325,853	687,745
Modified Direct	146,571	92,873	239,444
Indirect	38,108	24,147	62,255
Total	400,000	350,000	750,000

Appendix A. Results Framework & Life-of-Project (LOP) Targets

The Project Results Framework below is organized by Project Goal and IR. The Gambia - Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project contributes directly to USAID West Africa Regional Office's Environment & Climate Change Response (ROECCR) Results Framework, specifically IRs 1, 3 and 4 as per the May 2011 draft below. Each IR in the Gambia - Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project Results Framework has one or more indicators and LoP Targets that are shown in the table on the following pages. Indicators were harmonized and reduced in number in the Year 4 workplan to reflect USAID Standard Indicators.rovefor both male and female

GOAL

Artisanal fisheries ecosystems in The Gambia and selected stocks shared with Senegal are being managed more sustainably, incorporating significant participation of fisheries stakeholders, and attaining improved economic benefits for both male and female stakeholders in the market value chain



	Indicator	LOP Targets	Comments
IR 1			
2	No people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance (ROECCR 2.1.1)	220	Does not control for double counting of the same individuals if they received assistance (i.e., training) that improves their economic benefits on multiple occasions. Original LOP was significantly underestimated.
W1a	No of people with improved access to sanitation facilities	23,175	Adjusted from Year 3 target of 56,000 and Year 4 target of 20,000. ⁴
W1b	No of people with improved access to water facilities	11,663	Separated from sanitation and adjusted from Year 3 target of 56,000 and Year 4 target of 20,000. ⁵
W2	Number of persons receiving Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) Training.	240	40/site x 6 sites = 240
W3	Number of persons receiving training and outreach messages on hygiene promotion	6000	1000/site x 6 sites = 6000
W4	Community water and sanitation committees established and trained with program assistance	6	Original estimate based on 6 sites. Two sites (Old Jeshwang and Kartong) have both a fishery and an oyster harvesting community. Each have separate WASH facilities and a WASH Management Committee. Total committees will be 8.
IR 2			
4	No of institutions with improved capacity to address NR, BD, climate change, water issues as a result of USG assistance (ROECCR 4.1.1)	13	Does not include those reported under CC3. Does not double count the same institution receiving multiple capacity strengthening interventions.

⁴ The numbers reported for sanitation have been separated from those for water as per USAID standard indicators. The original number of 56,000 was revised downwards to 20,000 in Year 4 due to the larger number of smaller sites selected for the initial round of interventions and the elimination of one of the largest sites, Banjul, due to significant problems with relocation of the landing site as a result of port construction. In Year 5 it is adjusted to 23,175 based on the data in Annex 4 of the [WASH Needs Assessment Validation Workshop Report](#). For each of the 6 sites (Brufut, Tanji, Sanyang, Old Jeshwang, Kamalo, and Kartong) the total users plus 25% of the total population as per the 2003 census was used to estimate the number gaining access to the improved facility.

⁵ The number for water now that it is separated out is only 11, 663 because at the last 2 WASH sites (Sanyang and Tanji), only sanitation facilities will be added with USG assistance. Water points already exist.

5	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation. (F 4.8.1-27)	1958 (gender disaggregated)	= Trainet. Does not control for double counting of the same individuals receiving multiple trainings. Original LOP of 200 was a significant underestimate. LOP now est. at 1,958.
6	Improvements on a governance scorecard covering, goals, constituencies, commitment and capacity dimensions, including measures that legislation and regulations are being implemented and complied with, and budgetary investments by government in fisheries management ⁶	Qualitative increases on score card criteria for Gambia EB-fisheries mgt	
11	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance (ROECCR 4.3.1)	2	
CC1	Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG assistance	1	
CC2	Number of stakeholders using climate information in their decision making as a result of USG assistance	30	= number of participants at the vulnerability assessment workshop as the workshop prioritized actions for an adaptation proposal based on analysis of VA findings.
CC3	Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	8	= number of institutions at the CCVA Workshop.
IR 3 & 4			
12	No. of Hectares in areas of biological significance under improved natural resource management (ROECCR 1.1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares covered by the fisheries management plan defined as the range of fishing fleets targeting these species Oyster fishery estuarine and mangrove areas designated and allocated as community managed zones, including no-take areas 	FMP Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole = 12nm seaward = 158,332 ha Community managed oyster zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanbi wetlands 6000 ha 	Original estimate for Sole was based on 12nm seaward as per the artisanal fishing zone specified in the Fisheries Act of 2007. The final Sole co-management plan limited the special management area with user rights for NASCOM out to 9nm. So, total hectares for Sole are 121,245.

⁶ Scorecard based on governance indicators in [UNEP/GPA Ecosystem Based Management Guide](#)

GOAL		
17	No. of HA in areas of biological significance showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance. (ROECCR AO1) = Hectares under effective mgt (progress towards BRPs) for sole and oysters	No targets set but progress towards BRPs will be tracked.

No	Indicator	Cumulative Results (as of FY12)	FY13 Actual	FY14 Target	LOP Target	Comments
IR 1						
2	No people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance (ROECCR 2.1.1)	910 ⁷	380	40	220	FY 14 target = 20 people with fisheries livelihoods at each of 2 WASH sites (Sanyang and Tanji) trained in improved fish handling and hygiene.
W1a	No of peoples with improved access to sanitation facilities	0	0	23,175	23,175	See LOP footnote above.
W1b	No of people with improved access to water facilities	0	0	11,663	11,663	See LOP footnote above.
W2	Number of persons receiving Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) Training.	0	160	80	240	FY 14 target = 40 at Sanyang + 40 at Tanji
W3	Number of persons receiving training and outreach messages on hygiene promotion	0	0	6000	6000	80 trainers trained in FY13 at 4 sites and outreach begun, but data collection not achieved in time. Will be reported in FY14, plus data from last 2 sites = 1000/site = 6000.
W4	Community water and sanitation committees established and trained with program assistance	0	6	2	6	See LOP footnote above. FY14 target = 1 at Sanyang + 1 at Tanji
IR 2						

⁷ The same individuals may be counted more than once if they received assistance (i.e., training) that improves their economic benefits on multiple occasions in one year or in successive years.

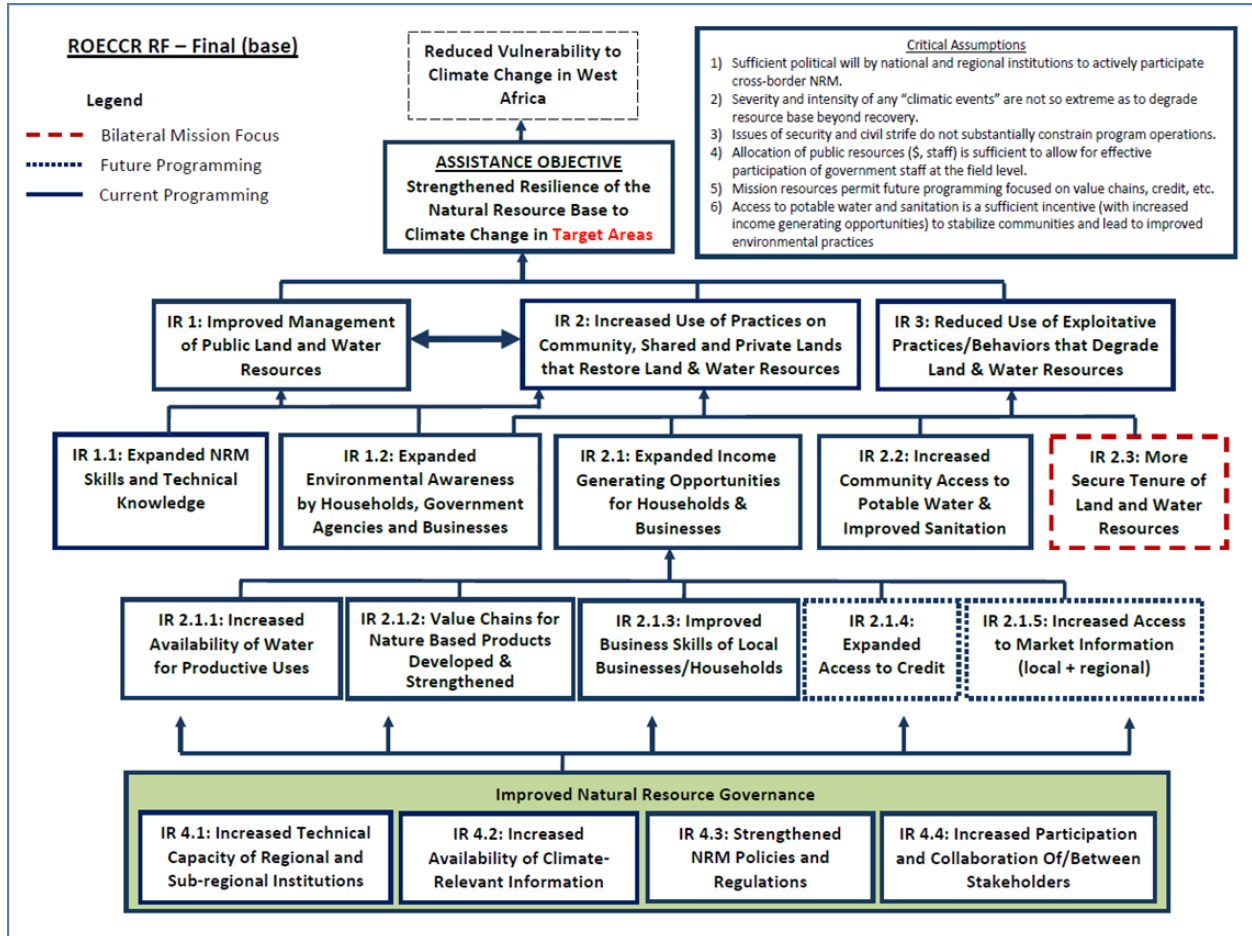
4	No of institutions with improved capacity to address NR, BD, climate change, water issues as a result of USG assistance (ROECCR 4.1.1)	16 ⁸	1	1	13	Previous = LACOMS in 7 communities (Gunjur, Brufut, Sanyang, Tanji, Batokunku/Tujereng, Bakau, Banjul), NASCOM, GAMFIDA, NAAFO, TRY, DoFish, NEA, Water Lab, DPWM, TAGFC. FY13 = TARUD, FY 14 target = DOH under GNSSP MOU.
5	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation. (F 4.8.1-27)	1369	347	242	1958	= TrainNet. There is duplication of individuals being trained in multiple trainings.
6	Improvements on governance scorecard	Increasing	increasing		increasing	No FY 14 scoring planned as latest was done in late September 2013.
No	Indicator	Cumulative Results (as of FY12)	FY13 Actual	FY14 Target	LOP Target	Comments
11	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance (ROECCR 4.3.1)	2	0	2	2	FY12 = Sole and Oyster Co-Management Plans FY14 = GNSSP MOU + Catfish/gillnet amendment to the Sole Plan.
CC1	Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG assistance	1	0	0	1	
CC2	Number of stakeholders using climate information in their decision making as a result of USG assistance	44	0	0	30	See LOP comment above
CC3	Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	18	0	0	8	See LOP comment above
IR 3 & 4						

⁸ Adjusted up from the 13 reported in the FY12 (Year 3) annual report as NEA, DPWM and Water Lab are in the “previous” group as documented by their repeated participation in various training activities documented in TraiNet.

12	<p>No. of Hectares in areas of biological significance under improved natural resource management (ROECCR 1.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares covered by the fisheries management plan defined as the range of fishing fleets targeting these species Oyster fishery estuarine and mangrove areas designated and allocated as community managed zones, including no-take areas 	<p>Sole = 121,245ha</p> <p>Oyster = Tanbi = 6304ha</p>	0	0	<p>FMP Areas: Sole = 12nm seaward = 158,332 ha</p> <p>Community managed oyster zones: Tanbi wetlands = 6000 ha</p>	<p>See LOP comment above.</p> <p>Allahein River estuary co-management planning will still be in progress. Catfish amendment to Sole Plan will not add hectares</p>
Goal						
17	<p>No. of HA in areas of biological significance showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance. (ROECCR AO1) = Hectares under effective mgt (progress towards BRPs) for sole and oysters</p>				No target but tracked	<p>Reference points for sole to be established as part of the management plan. Baseline will be established based on results of preliminary stock assessment</p> <p>Baseline data for oysters collected in year1 PRA</p>

Above, Results to Date and Year 5 (FY14) Targets

Appendix B. USAID ROECCR Results Framework



Appendix C. Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

Title of the program: Gambia-Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project (USAID/BaNafaa)

Implementing Partner: University of Rhode Island

Country or Region: USAID/West Africa

Award Number: LWA: EPP-A-00-04-00014-00, Associate Award: 624-A-00-09-00033-00

Life of Activity: FY2010 – FY2014

Date of Most Recent IEE: 05/15/11

Category of Activity from Section 4 of the IEE	Describe specific environmental threats of your organization's activities (based on analysis in Section 4 of EG IEE)	Description of Mitigation Measures for these activities as required in Section 4 of the IEE	Who is responsible for monitoring	Monitoring Indicator	Monitoring Method	Frequency of Monitoring
1. Education, technical assistance, training;	No environmental impacts anticipated as a result of these activities.	Education, technical assistance and training about activities that inherently affect the environment. Training will include discussion of prevention and mitigation of potential negative environmental effects.	Project Manager	Education, technical assistance, training and other materials and reports	Review of materials	Annual
2. Sole Fishery	Increased harvests and threat to overfishing due to increased demand	<i>Activities:</i> Fisheries management plans, value chain assessments/improvements, cost competitive analyses, Marine Protected Areas, enterprise development training – micro credit, loans & micro-enterprises. Observe all Conditions in Section 4.2.	Project manager	Sole management Plan and evidence of MSC certification	Review of materials	Annual

3. Oyster Fishery	Increased harvests and threat to overfishing due to increased demand	<p><i>Activities:</i> Value chain assessment/improvement, enterprise development training - micro credit, loans, and micro-enterprise, small-scale construction to improve small scale landing, processing and product marketing facilities,</p> <p>establish special area community management plans (SAMPs) for oysters, fuel wood saving program, reforestation. Observe all Conditions in Section 4.2.</p>	Project Manager	Oyster Management plan or other evidence that informal rules are being adopted and followed	Review of materials	Annual
4. Shrimp Fishery	Increased harvests and threat to overfishing due to increased demand	<p><i>Activity:</i> Value chain assessment/improvement. Observe Conditions in Section 4.2.</p>	Project Manager	TBD and approved by USAID	Review of materials	Annual
5. Sardinella Fishery	Increased harvests and threat to overfishing due to increased demand	<p><i>Activity:</i> Value chain assessment/improvement. Observe Conditions in Section 4.2.</p>	Project Manager	TBD and approved by USAID	Review of materials	Annual
6. Biodiversity Conservation – hot spot mapping, sea turtle & dolphin monitoring	No environmental impacts anticipated as a result of these activities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<p>7. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</p>	<p><i>Water Supply</i></p> <p>Improper siting of facilities that damages or destroys natural ecosystems and sensitive habitats</p> <p>Depletion of freshwater resources (surface and groundwater)</p> <p>Conflict over water resource allocation</p> <p>Creation of stagnant (standing) water near water points that could create breeding opportunities for water-borne disease vectors</p> <p>Natural or human-caused biological or chemical contamination of water sources (surface and groundwater) causing increased human health risks</p> <p>Land use change including site alteration and road access that can lead to soil erosion, degradation of water quality, altered hydrology and flooding, deforestation, and/or damage to scenic quality and tourism</p> <p><i>Sanitation</i></p> <p>Increased human health risks from contamination of surface water, groundwater, soil, and food by human waste and disease pathogens</p> <p>Degradation of estuarine and marine water quality and degradation of land habitats, or negative impacts to surface or groundwater quality due to inappropriate siting or construction of latrines or wastewater collection systems, or release of human waste from facilities</p> <p>Removal of vegetation and/or compaction of the soil and grading of</p>	<p><i>Activity:</i> Construction, renovation, installation or improvements of water supply, storage or sanitary facilities, and solid waste handling. Observe Conditions in Section 4.2.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>	<p>Construction plans/designs and photos of all facilities constructed</p>	<p>Review of materials, on site inspection</p>	<p>Semi-Annual</p>
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8. Global Climate Change	<p>Alteration of nearshore sediment patterns resulting in displaced or accelerated erosion of beachfronts from inappropriate construction</p> <p>Natural habitat destruction or degradation, degradation of marginal lands land water; marine pollution from soil erosion or use of agricultural chemicals; reduced water availability from water storage or diversion for irrigation; bio-diversity loss from land fragmentation, conversion to agricultural use, or introduction of exotic spp.</p>	<p><i>Activities:</i> Beach and dune nourishment, use of hard structures to combat erosion from sea level rise; small scale agricultural activities that promote and carry out sustainable agriculture activities including tilling, cultivation, fertilization, harvesting, etc. Observe Conditions in Section 4.2.</p>	Project Manager	TBD via env. screening	TBD via env. screening	Semi-Annual
9. Sub-grants	To be determined through environmental screening processes	<p><i>Activity:</i> Any sub-grants to support this project's activities must incorporate provisions that the activities to be undertaken will comply with the environmental determinations and recommendations of this IEE. This includes assurance that the activities conducted with USAID funds fit within those described in the approved IEE or IEE amendment and that any mitigating measures required for those activities be followed. In addition, environmental screening will be required.</p>	Sub-grantee	TBD via env. screening	TBD via env. screening	Semi-annual

Appendix D. Background

Regional Fisheries Context

Senegal and The Gambia are centrally located within the West African Marine Ecoregion (WAMER) that spans 3,500km of coast in western Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea). Its most striking feature is the powerful coastal upwelling of cold water that create a tremendously productive food chain supporting incredible biodiversity in one of the most diverse and economically important fishing zones in the world. Over 1,000 species of fish have been identified, along with several species of cetaceans including dolphins and whales, and five species of endangered marine turtles. This immense productivity is further enhanced by several major river/estuary/delta complexes that provide additional influx of nutrients and sediments to the marine realm, adding to its biological productivity. The estuarine wetlands are globally significant breeding and over-wintering grounds for numerous migratory birds.

The ecoregion is also known as the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME). Fish that spawn in northern nurseries seasonally migrate southwards (as do the fishermen) and provide food for human fishing communities along the way. In addition, recent satellite tracking has confirmed that green turtles lay eggs along the remote beaches of Guinea Bissau and travel northwards through Senegalese and Gambian waters to graze in the rich sea grasses of Mauritania. In short, the unique combination of climate and upwelling supports species and habitats that represent critical resources locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Areas of international, regional and local significance within the WAMER are shown in Figure 1. The stretch from the Saloum Delta in Senegal, The Gambia River and the entire coastline of the Gambia, as well as the Casamance river system is one contiguous area that has regional biodiversity significance.

High levels of fishing effort, however, puts unsustainable pressures on limited fish stocks—only further exacerbated by recent improvements in fishing gear that increase fishing efficiency. As more boats search for fewer and fewer fish, the use of destructive, habitat-destroying fishing techniques such as bottom trawling, and beach seining have increased dramatically. Increased fishing has also led to increased capture of endangered marine turtles, juvenile fish, and expansion of the trade in shark and ray fins.

To address these threats, more integrated management approaches are needed at the local and regional scale, including approaches that move toward more sustainable fisheries utilization with less impact on the rich biodiversity of this region. Reducing overfishing through more sustainable harvesting practices will result in a healthier marine ecosystem, including higher biomass of standing stocks and more balanced species assemblages. In addition, promoting more sustainable use practices will help address the wasteful problem of incidental bycatch and

capture of endangered species and will increase adaptive capacity of communities and fisheries to climate change.

Climate change is predicted to seriously modify coastal, marine and estuarine ecosystems and their human uses with social, economic and ecological consequences. In the Saloum, Sangomar Point has completely disappeared and the advancing sea is causing the progressive disappearance of mangroves in the Saloum estuary. Infrastructure in both the Saloum and in The Gambia are threatened by coastal erosion, menacing fisheries centers, and landing and processing sites. By one estimate, climate change will cause a reduction of fish catch in Senegal by 2% of GDP beginning in 2020.

It is therefore important to study the vulnerability of these ecosystems and productive human activities to identify appropriate adaptation measures that support sustainable socio-economic development and reduce the vulnerability of local populations. While the natural resources are trans boundary, resource management in The Gambia and Senegal is strictly national. An ecosystem-based approach to fisheries resource management and adaptation of fisheries to climate change needs to consider both countries and ensure bilateral cooperation and planning.

Rationale for Piloting Regional Demonstration Activities in The Gambia

The Gambia is the only country in West Africa that has enacted a fisheries legislation that makes it possible to adopt and implement a fisheries co-management plan under the Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) approach. The Fisheries Act of 2007 is comprehensive legislation that addresses national as well as international fisheries issues in a holistic manner incorporating the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international fisheries conventions and protocols to which the country is a member or has assented to. Thus, a strong legal basis for the implementation of a co-management regime is already in place. The top-down approach to fisheries management is a thing of the past; now the fisherfolk and their communities are fully participating in all aspects of fisheries management including decision-making. Community Fisheries Centers have been established in major fish landing sites and are operating under a co-management arrangement with Government and other stakeholders. However, the fisheries co-management institutions need to be strengthened. The USAID/BaNafaa project has been providing the requisite leadership, financial and technical support. Much has been achieved yet more work is needed to achieve success and sustainability of a co-management approach that can serve as a model for other nations in the region.

The small size of the country and comprehensive fisheries legislation offer the unique opportunity to introduce the EBFM approach as a pilot and if successful the approach can be adapted in other countries where USAID is supporting sustainable fisheries development programs (Ghana and Senegal). The Gambia is a good model for fisheries co-management in West Africa and other regions with open access fisheries.

The USAID/BaNafaa project focus in the first 2 years of project implementation has been on the oyster and sole fisheries. As of January 2012, a co-management plan for the sole fishery was adopted. The sole fishery is also now closer to meeting the sustainability criteria for certification by the Marine Stewardship Council, and may be the first artisanal fishery in sub-Saharan Africa to get an Eco-label. Other countries in West Africa including Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Ghana are interested in the work being done under this project and eager to learn from this experience. The oyster fishery activities are uniquely focused on women harvesters which are typically neglected in fisheries development planning. The co-management plan for the oyster fishery, also approved in January 2012, gives exclusive use rights to the oyster fishery in the Tanbi wetland area to these women oyster harvesters who have now been organized into an area wide producer organization. Exclusive use rights to a fishery resource are rare in West Africa, let alone to women. This is the first case in sub-Saharan Africa where exclusive fishery harvest rights have been legally given to women harvesters.

Valuable lessons can be learnt from the implementation of the USAID/BaNafaa project, lessons that can guide the implementation of current and pipeline USAID Fisheries projects in the region. West African countries may also decide to revisit their fisheries legislations and make amendments incorporating provisions that will create a stronger enabling environment for the introduction of co-management and EBFM approaches to fisheries that can protect important marine bio-diversity assets, reduce their vulnerability to climate change and strengthen fish product food security through well managed resources.

The Legal Basis for Co-Management in The Gambia

Section 11 of the Fisheries Act gives power to the Minister of Fisheries to determine participatory rights in a fishery, such as allocations of the total allowable catch or of the total allowable level of fishing and this may include restrictions as to vessel type, gear type, seasons of operations, and areas in which fishing can take place; and any other restriction relevant to fisheries conservation, management and development.

Under Section 14, the Minister of Fisheries may, in the interest of conservation, management and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, by Notice in the Gazette, declare any area of the fisheries waters and corresponding adjacent areas, including marine protected areas or reserves established under any other laws, to be Special Management Areas for purposes of community-based fisheries management, and the application of certain conservation and management measures and artisanal or subsistence fishing operations or any combination of the foregoing purposes or other specified purpose. The Notice published may specify the specified Special Management Area: the persons or groups of persons or types or classes of vessels that may be allowed to fish; the methods of fishing that may be used, the terms and conditions of fishing; and any other conservation and management measure that apply.

Section 15 stipulates that the Minister of Fisheries may, in consultation with the Local Authorities and where applicable, in accordance with the Local Government Act and other laws of The Gambia, establish a Community Fisheries Centre for the purposes of community-based fisheries management and may allocate the Management Areas or parts of them for which a Community Fisheries Centre shall be responsible under this Act and describe the rights and responsibilities of a Community Fisheries Centre in respect of the Special Management Areas or parts of them, taking into account the concerns of communities living within the immediate environs of the area to be declared as a Special Management Area.